

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: October 30, 2005
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WEATHER



California lay between a high pressure ridge over Utah and an upper level low pressure system centered off the coast of British Columbia at the start of the week. Another low pressure system was off the coast of southern California, and this system moved ashore, spreading cool temperatures and scattered showers across the southland on Monday and Tuesday. By Wednesday, the British Columbia low moved ashore, and a cold front associated with this system moved through northern California, spreading showers across the northern half of the State over the next several days. At the same time, the southern California low moved out of the State, and conditions there dried out, and temperatures began to warm. The weekend saw the northern low pressure system finally exit the State, and building high pressure brought warming and drying conditions to all of California by Sunday.

FIELD CROPS

Field preparation was ongoing for fall planting of **barley**, **oat**, and **wheat** crops. **Rice** harvest was completed in several counties. Other rice counties continued to harvest and were delayed due to the rain. Harvest of field **corn** for silage was completed in several counties as well, and was near completion in other areas. The **sugar beet** harvest was ongoing, and a few fields were being treated for insects. Many **alfalfa** fields continued to be cut, windrowed, raked, and baled, while other fields were irrigated. Alfalfa was also being green chopped and new fields of alfalfa and winter forage were being prepared for planting. **Sweet potatoes** were harvested. **Vinseed** and **blackeye bean** harvest in Sutter county was slowed due to rainfall.

FRUIT CROPS

The raisin **grape** harvest in Fresno County continued to progress smoothly with approximately 2 percent of the crop remaining open on trays to dry. About 8 percent of the crop remained in rolls and 90 percent had already been picked up and placed into bins. Dried on the vine vineyards continued to be harvested. Picking of fresh market grapes remained underway including Thompson Seedless, Red Globe, Crimson Seedless, Prima Red Seedless, and Autumn Royal varieties. Wine and juice grape varieties harvested included Carignane, French Colombard, Barbera, Rubired, and Carnelian. Harvesting of stone fruit was winding down for the season. Growers continued to harvest **figs**, and good yields were reported. Asian **pears**, **apples**, and **persimmons** continued to be harvested in growing areas of the State. **Kiwifruit** harvest was almost complete with good quality reported. Wonderful **pomegranate** harvest was steady but was beginning to taper off due to cooler temperatures causing some fruit to split. **Strawberry** plants in the San Joaquin Valley were showing good growth with some fall strawberries being sold at roadside stands. Weed control and irrigation were ongoing in many citrus groves. A few growers were applying copper and lime for fungus control. Some late variety Valencia **oranges** continued to be harvested. Navel oranges were harvested in some blocks of Tulare County. Gibberellin applications continued in Navel orchards. Satsuma **mandarins** and Chandler **pummelos** continued to be picked. Mandarins were showing good color. The **olive** harvest was in full swing, but growers continued to have problems with labor shortages.

NUT CROPS

Late varieties of **walnuts** and **pistachios** continued to be harvested with trees being shaken and nuts being swept and picked up from orchard floors and transported to hulling facilities. **Almond** harvest continued but was winding down.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Cauliflower continued to progress well, and transplanting was ongoing in the Central Valley. **Pumpkins** were harvested and sold at roadside stands. Fungicides were applied to **tomatoes**. **Green bean** harvest was beginning in the San Joaquin Valley. Freezer **lima bean** harvest was winding down. Whitefly numbers had decreased significantly in **melon** fields in the Imperial Valley. Fall **asparagus**, **broccoli**, **garlic**, **lettuce**, **parsley**, tomatoes, and sweet **corn** were harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland pastures were in dry condition, although rains were helping to decrease the fire hazard. Beef cows continued to move from higher elevation summer pastures to winter foothill pastures where there was abundant dry grass. Protein supplements were still being fed to cattle. Sheep were grazing on retired farm land in the central area. Feeder lambs continued to arrive in the Imperial Valley for the winter pasture season and were grazing on sudan grass, bermuda grass, and alfalfa pastures. Cooler temperatures were boosting milk production throughout the State.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 10/30/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/30/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/30/05	January 1 - 10/30/05	Week Ending 10/30/05	July 1 - 10/30/05	July 1 - 10/30/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	51	-3	62	38	11	0	1.75	4.09	3.72	37.53
Ukiah	56	-2	80	36	1,425	1,454	0.79	0.84	2.86	37.96
Santa Rosa	57	-3	72	39	771	923	0.91	1.02	2.36	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	60	1	71	48	514	443	0.06	0.26	1.30	19.70
San Jose	61	0	72	46	1,286	1,334	0.00	0.11	1.14	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,594	1,457	0.00	0.00	1.08	14.21
Salinas AP	57	-3	70	41	410	432	0.05	0.16	0.94	12.44
Monterey FAA	57	-1	69	44	126	145	0.00	0.05	2.08	18.72
King City	60	0	77	40	1,226	1,043	0.00	0.03	0.74	11.44
Paso Robles AP	57	-1	76	37	1,614	1,552	0.00	0.10	0.88	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	56	-4	82	37	2,574	2,504	0.27	0.51	2.88	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	58	-3	82	40	2,475	2,610	0.17	0.51	2.37	22.29
Chico AFS	60	1	85	41	2,347	2,043	0.70	0.84	2.02	26.32
Marysville	59	-3	79	43	2,251	2,442	0.69	0.84	1.64	21.04
Sacramento AP	59	-1	77	43	1,948	1,932	0.14	0.24	1.26	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	62	1	78	43	2,326	2,214	0.04	0.73	1.14	13.95
Fresno	61	0	81	47	2,960	2,792	0.05	0.09	0.82	10.60
Bakersfield	61	-2	80	45	3,026	3,125	0.00	0.28	0.54	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	58	-1	77	43	400	410	0.07	0.80	0.81	12.36
Santa Barbara	58	-2	71	44	544	736	0.13	1.38	1.22	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	960	927	0.00	0.00	0.81	14.38
Los Angeles	63	-4	75	52	1,979	2,346	0.00	1.31	0.80	14.77
Riverside	64	-1	82	48	2,507	2,358	0.02	1.67	0.72	9.58
San Diego AP	64	-2	69	56	1,600	1,737	0.00	0.69	0.74	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	53	1	79	31	1,663	1,552	0.23	1.08	0.77	5.37
Lancaster	61	3	81	41	2,379	2,343	0.00	2.58	0.76	6.92
Daggett AP	65	0	86	50	3,763	3,927	0.00	1.13	1.29	3.93
Thermal AP	73	4	89	51	4,940	4,803	0.00	2.08	1.13	3.16
Blythe	72	2	90	53	5,292	5,304	0.00	2.20	1.72	3.60
Imperial	72	1	91	54	5,099	5,041	0.00	1.81	1.07	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	46	3	75	19	557	296	0.27	0.95	2.06	12.01
Mt. Shasta	45	-2	74	28	666	446	0.57	1.28	3.85	37.02
Blue Canyon	47	-3	65	35	880	574	1.83	2.68	6.50	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,308	1,090	0.00	0.00	3.82	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.